Central force to assist the people during disasters

3069. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government propose to raise an exclusive Central force to assist/serve the people during the relief and rescue operations immediately after the natural calamities such as earthquake, flood and Tsunami;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by when this force is likely to be raised;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether such an exclusive/specially trained force would be of much help in assisting the people during natural calamities; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (e) Based on the lessons learnt from the past, there has been a change in the disaster management policy orientation in India from a relief centric approach to a holistic multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral approach encompassing all the elements of disaster management i.e. prevention, mitigation preparedness, response, relief and rehabilitation. The approach emanates from the conviction that development can not be sustained unless disaster mitigation and preparedness are built into the developmental process. In line with the recent change in approach the Government of India have taken several measures to strengthen our response capabilities. In this context, the Government of India has introduced the Disaster Management Bill, 2005 in the Rajya Sabha. The Bill *inter alia* provides for strengthening the existing disaster management mechanism in the country, which would facilitate a holistic, coordinated and prompt response to natural calamities. The Bill also provides for Constitution of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) for specialized response to any natural calamities. Eight battalions of Central Paramilitary Forces have been earmarked to constitute NDRF. Each of these battalions will have 18 specialist Search and Rescue teams. The process of training and equipping of specialized terms of the NDRF battalions has already begun.

The State Governments/UT Administrations have also been advised to constitute Search and Rescue teams for immediate response and assistance to the people affected by natural calamities. The State/UTs have been authorized to procure necessary equipment for Search and Rescue teams under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF).

Housing units for Tsunami victims

3070. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether residential units are being constructed for the Tsunami victims by Government;

(b) the number of such units being constructed in Tamil Nadu; and

(r.) whether there are any tie-up any other Governmental or non-governmental agency for providing dwelling units to the Tsunami victims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY) (a) to (c) The Government of Tamil Nadu has reported that in the first phase, 6307 houses are being constructed *in situ* and 39585 houses are to be constructed in new sites totalling 45892 houses and that additional houses will be built to relocate the families living in vulnerable areas. The State Government has further stated that 87 NGOs have come forward.

Capacity of jails in New Delhi

3071. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total inmate capacity of jails in New Delhi and the actual number of inmates staying in them, jail-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government has already begun construction of several new jails to ease pressure on existing facilities;

(c) if so, the details and the status of the facilities under construction; and

(d) the details of any proposals to provide more facilities to inmates in jails, both new and old?